



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

CHAUSÉE DE HAECHE 55, 1210, BRUXELLES-BRUSSELS, BELGIQUE-BELGIUM

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Office of the President
1 Whitehall Street, 16th Floor
New York, New York 10004

January 31, 2022

His Excellency Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York
(by Email)

Re: Violations of the new UN Flag Code by the so-called "United Nations Command"

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

We are writing on behalf of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC, the Confederation of Lawyers of Asia and the Pacific (COLAP), and other concerned civil society groups in the world (the list is at p. 3). We found out recently that the United Nations Flag Code was significantly revised in November 2020, as published in the Secretary-General's Bulletin (ST/SGB/2020/4). We welcome this revision of the 1967 Flag Code, which was quite outdated and unclear, and would like to express our thanks to you for your leadership in this matter.

At the same time, we would like to inform you again that there is a continuing abuse of the UN flag by the so-called "United Nations Command" ("UNC"), which is not a UN entity under control of the United Nations, in South Korea and Japan today, in violation of the new UN Flag Code. In particular, we would like to share the following samples as the most serious violations of the new UN Flag Code by the bogus UN military entity:

1. Article 8.4 of the new Flag Code prohibits as follows: *"No mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature shall ever be placed upon or attached to the flag."* However, the "UNC" created its own Website sometime in 2020, including its own military command logo for the first time: using a circle around the UN flag with the words "United Nations Command" on top and 16 stars in the bottom part of the circle. In addition to the "UNC" logo, the "UNC" is also using several other similar logos with different words such as "United Nations Command (REAR) ... YOKOTA AB JAPAN," "United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission," and "JSA". (See www.unc.mil; Exhibit A) Thus, by continuing its use of these logos, the "UNC" is in violation of Article 8.4 of the new UN Flag Code.
2. Article 8.3 of the new Flag Code also prohibits as follows: *"The flag should not be affixed in any manner on any article of any kind which is not strictly necessary to the display of the flag itself."* However, the U.S. soldiers associated with the "UNC" are still using the UN flag design/insignia affixed on their hats, masks, and uniforms, in violation of the new Flag Code. The U.S. officers of the "UNC" also affixed the UN flag on their car. (See www.usfk.mil, 2 July 2021; Exhibit B).



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3. Article 6.2 of the new Flag Code requires organizations and individuals who want to use the UN flag to meet certain conditions, including “such a display of the flag: (a) does not suggest any affiliation between the United Nations and the organization...displaying the flag;” (underline added for emphasis) However, in violation of the Article 6.2 of the new Code, the “UNC” is using the UN flag with the U.S. and ROK flags at such places like Camp Humphreys - a major U.S. military base where the “UNC Headquarters” is located - in Pyongtaek, military guard posts in the southern parts of the DMZ, etc., while the “UNC-Rear” is flying the UN flag with the U.S. and Japan flags at its seven military bases in Japan. (See Exhibit C) Moreover, the U.S. military’s continuing use of the “UNC” logos, mask, hat, shoulder patch, etc., as explained in Point 1 and 2 herein, also violate Article 6.2(a) of the new Code. They create a false impression that the U.S.-led “UNC” is somehow affiliated with the UN.

Therefore, we are deeply concerned with the extensive and flagrant violations of the new UN Flag Code that are taking place in South Korea and Japan by the so-called “UNC.” If these violations are not stopped by the UN in the near future, it is most likely that they will seriously undermine the dignity and respect of the United Nations in the international community.

Thus, we would like to urge you to designate a responsible UN officer or unit to launch a comprehensive investigation into the current situation of wide-spread violations of the new UN Flag Code by the fake “UNC,” and take necessary measures to stop the continuing abuse of the UN flag in South Korea and Japan.

We would appreciate your attention in this matter and kind response as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

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Attachments:
Exhibit A, B and C

Endorsed by the following Civil Society Groups:

Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh (Bangladesh)
Indian Lawyers Association (India)
Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (Japan)
National Association of Democratic Lawyers (South Africa)

American Friends Service Committee (USA)
Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation (USA)
Korea Policy Institute (USA)
Massachusetts Peace Action (USA)
Massachusetts Korea Peace Campaign (USA)
National Lawyers Guild International Committee (USA)
Network Peace & Unification in USA (USA)
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (USA)
Peace Action-Maine (USA)
Peaceworkers (USA)
RootsAction (USA)
Seattle Evergreen Coalition (USA)
TLtC Justice & Peace Committee (New York) (USA)
Veterans For Peace (USA)
World BEYOND War (USA)

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (Netherlands)
Korean Friendship Association (Spain)
Solidarity of Korean People in Europe (EU)

Action One Korea (AOK) (ROK)
The Gyeonggi Joongbo Branch, Action for 6.15 Joint Declaration (ROK)
Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (ROK)
Citizen's Solidarity for Peace & Unification (ROK)
Tongil Inreoyeo (ROK)
Solidarity for USAFIK Comfort Women's Human Rights (ROK)
The Institute of 427Era (ROK)
minkokmunhak (ROK)
Right press Citizens' Union (ROK)
Citizens' Solidarity to Clear Corruption of the Jogye Order (ROK)
Samsung general labor union (ROK)
Moongyung Citizens' Hope Solidarity (ROK)
livecitizen (ROK)
The Matchmakers for the Unification of Koreans (ROK)
Hungshadan Goyangpaju branch (ROK)



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- With Peace (ROK)
- Rail of Hope (ROK)
- Buddhists' Solidarity for the Right and Peace (ROK)
- Borderline Area Peace Union (ROK)
- Kaesong Tourism (ROK)
- Kaesong Cultural Center (ROK)
- Buchoncivil Association (ROK)
- People's Solidarity for win-win Reunification Korea (ROK)
- Korean Peninsula Peace and Prosperity Unification Namyangju Civic Group (ROK)
- Direct democratic solidarity (ROK)
- Mugunghwa Club to democratize the rule of law (ROK)
- Culture on cooperative (ROK)
- Life & Peace Forum (ROK)
- Mirae Edu Social Cooperative (ROK)
- Chosun Righteous Brotherhood Memorial Society (ROK)
- Justice Solidarity (ROK)
- Peacerailway (ROK)
- Pathpeace (ROK)
- Peace Mothers of Korea (ROK)
- Pan Korean Association for Reconciliation (ROK)
- The Progressive Party (ROK)
- Korea International Peace Forum (ROK)
- Korea Alliance For Progressive Movement (ROK)
- Living With Jesus (ROK)
- Poverty Love Association (ROK)



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Exhibit A (“UNC” Logo & Its Variations)



Exhibit B (“UNC” logo with USFK logo & US-ROK Combined Forces logo; use of UN Flag on U.S. Soldiers’ Uniform, Donga Ilbo, 3 July 2021)



Exhibit C (UN Flag at a ROK guard post inside the DMZ; UN Flag at a U.S. Military base in Japan)